Proposal to sell stake in PGC and PFC

2150. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell 5 per cent stake in two State-owned power companies — Power Grid Corporation and Power Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the mode of disinvestment and the amount proposed to be mobilized out of this?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken by the Government to sell 5 per cent stake in Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. and Power Finance Corporation.

Revival of DPC

2151. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided on the mechanics of buying out external lenders from US (GE and Bechtel) to revive Dabhol Power Projects in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the original cost structure of the project and the reported reluctance of the lenders to bring it down will enable NTPC to produce power at competitive tariff; and

(c) what measures are contemplated to secure the software essential for the revival from the lenders while buying out their stakes in the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) An empowered Group of Ministers has been set up to examine and decide all issues related to the Dabhol Power Project, keeping all relevant aspects in view.

Funds for villages electrification by REC

†2152. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages for the electrification of which the funds have been provided by REC during the last five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.